iMac FAQ

Overview

Q. What did Apple recently announce with iMac?

A. Apple announced a new family of iMac computers featuring 400-, 500-, and 600-MHz PowerPC G3 processors, CD-RW drives,[1] larger storage capacity, new Apple iTunes music software,[2] and improved graphics. Every iMac also comes with built-in FireWire ports and preinstalled iMovie, Apple's easy-to-use moviemaking software, so you can explore the world of digital video. And iMac now offers two great new styles to go with Indigo and Graphite: Flower Power and Blue Dalmatian. The new iMac systems are priced affordably at $899, $1199, and $1499 (suggested retail price), all delivering easy Internet access, affordable Desktop Movies, and crisp, clear digital music.

Q. Are additional options available when purchasing iMac through the online Apple Store?

A. Yes. Purchase any iMac through the Apple Store at www.apple.com/store and you can order your system with additional memory (up to 1GB) or an AirPort wireless networking card preinstalled.[3] You can also buy third-party software and accessories for your iMac from the Apple Store.

Q. Does iMac still support the Harman Kardon iSub subwoofer?

A. Yes. The iSub continues to be compatible with iMac. The iSub works in conjunction with the built-in Harman Kardon Odyssey digital audio system in iMac to enhance your enjoyment of audio CDs and MP3 titles.

Q. Is there an iMac that includes DVD-ROM?

A. No. In response to overwhelming customer requests, iMac now features CD-RW drives[1] that can read and write CDs, in place of read-only DVD-ROM drives.

Q. Is iMac compatible with Mac OS X?

A. Yes. All iMac systems are compatible with Mac OS X. Some systems may require additional memory to meet the minimum requirements for Mac OS X.

Q. Is Mac OS X included with iMac?

A. Not at this time. iMac comes with the latest release of the Mac OS, version 9.1.

iTunes and CD-RW

Q. What is iTunes?

A. iTunes is an application that lets you enjoy digital music in ways you never imagined. You can convert music CDs to MP3 files (also called "ripping"), create personal playlists, burn your own music CDs, and listen to hundreds of radio stations on the Internet. With the friendly, intuitive interface you've come to expect from Apple, iTunes software makes MP3 music a truly Mac-like experience. It turns your Mac into a digital jukebox—one that holds your digital music library and lets you play your favorite titles from your music CDs. iTunes features extremely high-quality, unlimited encoding and supports downloading music to the most popular portable MP3 players. With iMac systems that have a built-in CD-RW drive, you can create audio CDs that can be played in almost any CD player. iTunes is your passport to the world of digital music.

Q. How do I make a music CD that I can play in my home, car, or portable CD player?

A. On iMac systems with an internal CD-RW drive, you can use iTunes to create a playlist of your favorite music and then burn that playlist onto a CD-R disc.

Q. Can an iMac with the internal CD-RW drive be used to burn data CDs?

A. Yes. The capability to create data CDs is built right into Mac OS 9.1. Simply drag the files you want to burn onto the disc's icon on the desktop.

Q. What is the difference between CD-R and CD-RW media?

A. CD-R is short for CD-recordable, and CD-RW is short for CD-rewritable. CD-R discs are write-once, read-multiple media, while CD-RW discs can be written and erased many times. CD-R discs are highly compatible with consumer audio players and typically cost about half as much as CD-RW discs. Because CD-RWs can be erased and reused, they are ideal for computer data and music storage. Note that standard audio CD players do not play audio files stored on CD-RW discs.

Q. Are blank recordable CD media included with iMac systems that feature a built-in CD-RW drive?

A. Yes. So that you can start burning music CDs right away, Apple includes two blank CD-R discs with iMac systems that have the CD-RW drive. You can purchase additional blank media through the online Apple Store. A list of compatible CD-R and CD-RW media is also available on the Apple website at www.apple.com.

Q. How much music can be stored on an audio CD?

A. Typically, up to 74 minutes of audio can be stored on a CD. However, iTunes allows you to store even more audio on a single CD-R or CD-RW disc. For example, while a typical 5-minute song stored on an audio CD takes up about 35MB, the same song could be stored using only about 7MB—even using the iTunes high-quality setting (192 Kbps). In this example, you could conceivably store over 90 songs on just one CD-R or CD-RW disc to play back with iTunes.

Q. I already own an external CD-RW drive. Can I use iTunes to burn music CDs with my external CD-RW drive?

A. iTunes 1.1 software supports selected external USB and FireWire CD-RW drives. Please refer to the iTunes website at www.apple.com/itunes for iTunes updates and a list of supported CD-RW drives.

Q. Are recordable business-card-size CDs compatible with iMac?

A. No. Business-card-size CDs and other irregularly shaped CDs are not compatible with the slot-loading drive in iMac. iMac systems with a CD-RW drive are capable of writing to standard 12-cm CD-R and CD-RW media. All iMac systems can read 8-cm and 12-cm CDs.

iMovie and DV

Q. What accessories are required to make movies with iMac?

A. Every iMac features everything you need to make movies except the camcorder. This includes preinstalled iMovie digital video editing software, built-in FireWire ports, a 4-pin-to-6-pin FireWire camcorder cable, and enough processing power, memory, and disk storage to get you started. With iMac, making movies is not only easy, it's fun.

Q. Do I need a separate FireWire or other cable to record audio from my DV camcorder?

A. No. Unlike analog systems, digital video camcorders transmit high-quality audio and video through a single FireWire cable that's included with every iMac.

Q. Is it possible to use an analog camcorder to create movies?

A. iMovie is optimized for digital video (DV); however, there are several adapters that enable you to connect analog camcorders to iMac through FireWire. (Some of these adapters are available at the Apple Store.) Certain DV camcorders can also be used as an adapter that lets you import analog video. For the best quality, performance, and simplicity, Apple recommends the use of DV camcorders with iMac and iMovie.

Q. Can I get additional special effects plug-ins and audio effects for iMovie?

A. Yes. Apple offers additional special effects plug-in software, audio effects, backgrounds, and other material for use with iMovie on the web at www.apple.com/imovie.

iMac and Education

Q. How does the new iMac answer the needs of education?

A. The new iMac meets three key requirements of education customers: multimedia authoring, external video presentation, and low cost. Every new iMac now includes FireWire and iMovie, which combine to make digital moviemaking easy to learn and lots of fun, even for very young students. Every iMac now includes video mirroring, so teachers can project their onscreen images to the whole classroom. As for affordability, iMac prices start at just $899 (suggested retail price), with education discounts available to bring the cost down even further. What's more, iMac features Apple's Macintosh Manager administration software and runs the most popular education software titles. Also, education customers can now purchase iMac with a built-in CD-RW drive that accommodates extremely large yet affordable removable storage—up to 650MB per CD-R disc, costing less than $1 each—so students can take their schoolwork home with them. All of these features and so many more make iMac the perfect solution for education.

Q. Can iMac be started up from a Mac OS X Server system?

A. Yes. Every iMac can be booted over a network from Mac OS X Server.

Q. Are Apple's Macintosh Manager software and Network Administrator's Toolkit software compatible with iMac?

A. Yes. Both products are compatible with iMac and provide network administrators with a centralized method of securing Mac workstations, controlling student access to software, and providing a consistent, personalized experience for students and staff.

Q. Can iMac display its screen on a television for classroom presentations?

A. Yes. In response to feedback Apple has received from educators, every iMac now has the ability to display its screen on an external monitor. iMac contains a standard VGA connector so an external display can be attached. You can connect a television using a scan converter like the Focus Enhancements iTView DV (available separately) that supports the scan rates used by the iMac (640 by 480 pixels at 117 Hz, 800 by 600 pixels at 95 Hz, and 1024 by 768 pixels at 75 Hz). Scan converters have been used successfully in schools for many years.

Q. How can I secure the iMac so it won't be stolen?

A. iMac features two lockdown mechanisms. First, a cable or other locking mechanism can be routed through the carrying handle. The handle is integrated into the design, so it's an excellent choice for security. Second, there's a cable route through the RAM access door. When a cable is inserted, the door latch cannot be turned, deterring theft of RAM and the AirPort Card installed inside. When the cable is secured, it provides a measure of security for the iMac as well.

1 The CD-RW drive is included in 500- and 600-megahertz iMac systems.

2 iTunes may require Internet download; Internet access fees may apply. iTunes is licensed for reproduction of noncopyrighted materials or materials the user is legally permitted to reproduce.

3 Wireless Internet access requires AirPort Card, AirPort Base Station, and Internet access (fees may apply). Some ISPs are not currently compatible with AirPort, including America Online. Range may vary with site conditions.

For More Information

For more information about iMac, visit www.apple.com/imac.

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